

## Tap Water vs. Bottled Water

We suggest you fill a reusable, recyclable water container with Milwaukee water. Of all of the choices of water available to you, only one must meet all standards of the Safe Drinking Water Act: your Milwaukee tap water.

### Standards for Clean Water

The U. S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) requires bottled water quality standards to be equal to those of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for tap water, but the government does not monitor the quality of the finished bottled water product. Bottlers must test their source water and finished product only once a year. The Milwaukee Water Works conducts a multitude of quality tests on a daily, continuous basis.

Public water supplies must assess sources of potential contaminants, but federal rules specify no requirements, like setbacks from dumps, industrial facilities or underground storage tanks, for the protection of bottled water sources.

### Tap Water is a Bargain

Milwaukee water, pure and fresh, 24-hours-a day, is a great value. Two-and-one half gallons cost one cent.

If you drink eight glasses of water a day from bottled water, you spend \$2,190 a year. Drink eight glasses of Milwaukee tap water every day for a year for 73¢.

### Milwaukee Water is a National Leader in providing Pure, Fresh Water

The Milwaukee Water Works (MWW) is recognized for its comprehensive water monitoring program, which goes above and beyond requirements set forth by the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Act. We continuously analyze Lake Michigan source water, treated water from the plants, and treated water in the distribution system of 1,956 miles of water mains that carry over 100 million gallons of treated water daily.

Milwaukee's drinking water quality meets or exceeds federal and state standards and regulations.

### Watching for Unregulated Contaminants

MWW water quality monitoring and screening activities include organisms and contaminants that are not yet regulated but may be considered of emerging concern to public health, including endocrine disrupting compounds and pharmaceuticals and personal care products. Milwaukee was one of the first U.S. cities to test its water for emerging contaminants like pharmaceuticals. None have been found in Milwaukee's treated drinking water. Milwaukee was the first U.S. city to post the results on the Internet, demonstrating a commitment to water quality and transparency to our customers.

### The Milwaukee Water Treatment Process and Water Cycle

Our water purification process ensures you can trust pure, safe Milwaukee water for drinking, cooking, bathing – everything! Fresh, clean water protects you from waterborne illness.

The Milwaukee Water Works treats Lake Michigan water with ozone as the primary disinfectant to destroy microorganisms that cause disease, reduce the formation of disinfection byproducts, and remove taste and odor. Particles are removed through coagulation, flocculation, settling, and biologically active filtration. Chlorine is a secondary disinfectant. Fluoride is added to reduce dental cavities. A phosphorous compound is added to control pipe corrosion to prevent lead and copper that may be present in pipes from leaching into the water. Chloramine disinfection maintains a residual in the distribution system.

The treated water enters homes and businesses through a service line pipe and a water meter. After you use water, it leaves your property through the sanitary sewer pipe and flows to the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District treatment facility where it is treated and returned to Lake Michigan.

The Milwaukee Water Works has great confidence in the water we deliver to your home, school, and business, and would like you to have the same confidence.

***Why doesn't the Milwaukee Water Works bottle its water?***

- The core business of the Milwaukee Water Works is to provide safe, high quality drinking water at every tap. Bottling is not part of the core business.
- We choose not to use ratepayer revenue to invest in bottling Milwaukee water. Instead, we reinvest any revenue into improving utility infrastructure – the intake pipes, water treatment plants, pumping stations, water mains, and transmission lines.
- Bottled water raises questions about shelf life quality, landfill disposal, and the health risks of using certain plastics.

**We encourage everyone to fill at the tap and enjoy! Wash, reuse and recycle your bottles.**

*The Milwaukee Water Works provides water service to over 860,000 people in an area of 196 square miles in Milwaukee, Brown Deer, Butler, Franklin, Greendale, Greenfield, Hales Corners, Menomonee Falls, Mequon, New Berlin, Shorewood, St. Francis, Thiensville, Wauwatosa, West Allis, West Milwaukee, and to the Milwaukee County Grounds.*